

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 280600Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3175

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10406

E.O 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, VS, CB

SUBJ: COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN ALLEGING U.S. AIR ATTACK AT
KOMPONG CHAM

REF: FBIS SAGION 261048Z SEP 73

1. PRGRSV FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT CARRIED REFTEL IS THE LATEST INSTALLMENT IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A CONCERTED COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE PUBLIC OPINION THAT THE U.S. HAS RESUMED BOMBING IN CAMBODIA AND THAT THIS BOMBING CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEFENSE AND DESTRUCTION OF KOMPONG CHAM. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT, THESE CHARGES APPEAR SO TRANSPARELTY AND CLUMSILY CONTRIVED (WITNESS THE ATTEMPT TO REVIVE THE DIKE BOMBING ISSUE) THAT WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD NOT BE DIGNIFIED BY ANY SORT OF FORMAL REBUTTAL.

2. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER THIS
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PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

AND WHETHER IT HAS BEEN GIVEN ANY CREDENCE. ONE ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT COMMUNIST CHARGES AND HANOI'S DIKE BOMBING CANPAIGN OF 1972, OF COURSE, IS THE FACT THAT KOMPONG CHAM IS NOW AND HAS BEEN FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL OF THE FOREIGN PRESS CORPS HERE, WHEREAS THIS WAS NOT THE CASE IN THE RED RIVER DELTA IN 1972 - A CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH GREATLY FACILITATED THE "BIG LIE" TECHNIQUE ON THAT OCCASION. IF THE CURRENT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN GIVEN ANY SIGNIFICANT CREDENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, WE WILL SUGGEST TO THE GKR THAT IT MIGHT FOLD THE FOREGOING AND OTHER COUNTER-ARGUMENTS INTO ITS CAMPAGIN TO EXPLOIT THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF KOMPONG CHAM.

ENDERS

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